

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
WESTERN DIVISION**

|                                  |   |                          |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| LINDA LOYD,                      | ) |                          |
|                                  | ) |                          |
| Plaintiff,                       | ) |                          |
| v.                               | ) |                          |
|                                  | ) | No. 05-0402-CV-W-FJG-SSA |
| JO ANNE B. BARNHART,             | ) |                          |
| Commissioner of Social Security, | ) |                          |
|                                  | ) |                          |
| Defendant.                       | ) |                          |

**ORDER**

Pending before the Court is Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis. (Doc. No. 1). Together with said motion is Plaintiff's Suggestions in Support (Doc. No. 2) and Affidavit of Financial Status (Doc. No. 3).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915, this Court may authorize the commencement or prosecution of any suit without prepayment of fees when an applicant files an affidavit stating that he is unable to pay the costs of the lawsuit, and the Court determines that the lawsuit is not frivolous or malicious.

The Court must exercise its discretion in determining whether an applicant is sufficiently impoverished to qualify under § 1915. Cross v. Gen. Motors Corp., 721 F.2d 1152, 1157 (8th Cir. 1983). Such showing of poverty is sufficient if the applicant would become completely destitute or be forced to give up the basic necessities of life if required to pay the costs of the lawsuit. Adkins v. E.I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co., 335 U.S. 331, 339 (1948); Local Rule 83.7(a) (1999).

Plaintiff's Affidavit reveals that she is fifty years old, widowed, and with no dependents. Plaintiff states in her affidavit that she is not currently employed. Plaintiff

states that her previous employment was at the Rat Hole Tavern, where she earned \$120 per week working as a cashier, waitress and bartender.

Plaintiff does not own real property or automobiles. Plaintiff indicates that she has \$0.00 cash on hand, and indicates she belongs to no banks or other associations. Plaintiff indicates that, over the past twelve months, she has received two months of unemployment benefits and \$145 in food stamps per month. Plaintiff reports that she has no rental payment, gas bills, electric bills or water bills; plaintiff indicates that she is living with a friend who pays these expenses. Plaintiff also indicates that she owes Ray Burkitt \$4,700 for living expenses and prescriptions, Rose Brown \$500 for living expenses, and Delores Barnett \$1,500 (plaintiff does not indicate why she owes Ms. Barnett this amount).

Based upon the information provided in plaintiff's affidavit, the Court believes that plaintiff is sufficiently impoverished to be permitted to proceed in forma pauperis. Therefore, the Court will grant plaintiff's application for leave to file this civil action in forma pauperis. Additionally, the Court finds that Plaintiff's complaint is not barred by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). The complaint does not appear to be frivolous, nor does it appear to state a claim on which relief cannot be granted or seek monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.

Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (Doc. No. 1) is GRANTED;
2. because this case is included in the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system; plaintiff's counsel shall be responsible for electronically filing the Complaint on or before May 12, 2005; and
3. plaintiff shall be responsible for serving process in the manner described in

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(i).

Date: May 10, 2005  
Kansas City, Missouri

**S/ FERNANDO J. GAITAN, JR.**  
Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.  
United States District Judge